Amendment

In the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 16, line 28 and ending on page 17, line 13 with the following paragraph.

Because of its homology to the gene encoding the CoA-dependent aldehyde dehydrogenase component of the multifunctional alcohol dehydrogenase protein (AdhE) of *E. coli*, the *eutE* gene was amplified from the *E. coli* genome using the following oligonucleotide primers:

5' — GGT GGT ACC TTA AGA GGA GGT TTT TAT GAA TCA ACA GGA TAT TGA ACA — 3' (*eutE* 5' *Acc*65I) (SEQ ID NO: 1).

5' — GGT GCG GCC GCT TAA ACA ATG CGA AAC GCA TCG — 3' (*eutE* 3' *Not*I) (SEQ ID NO: 2).

The PCR product was digested with *Acc* 65I and *Not*I and ligated to pSE380 (Invitrogen; La Jolla, CA) that had been cut with the same enzymes. The resulting plasmid, which contained the *eutE* gene under control of the IPTG-inducible trc promoter, was designated pMS35.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 24, line 23 and ending on page 25, line 21 with the following paragraph.

Several *Escherichia coli* strains were constructed by integration of the *K. pneumoniae dhaT* and *E. coli eutE* genes, along with the *tetA* gene from *Tn*10, into the chromosome of MBX1335. The integration was accomplished with the plasmid pUT-*eutE-dhaT-tetA*, a derivative of pUTHg (Herrero et al., 1990, J. Bacteriol. 172:6557-6567). To construct pUT-*eutE-dhaT-tetA*, first the *tetA* gene was amplified by PCR from *Tn*10 using the following oligonucleotide primers:

5' — GGT CCT AGG TTA AGA GGA GGT TTT TAT GAA TAG TTC GAC AAA GAT CGC — 3' (*tetA* 5' *Avr*II) SEQ ID NO: 4)

5' — GGT ACT AGT CTA AGC ACT TGT CTC CTG TTT AC — 3' (*tetA* 3' *Spe*I) (SEQ ID NO: 5).

The *tetA* PCR product was digested with *Avr*II and *Spe*I and ligated to pUTHg that had been digested with *Avr*II (*Avr*II and *Spe*I give compatible sticky ends). This resulted in plasmid pUT-*tetA*. The *eutE* and *dhaT* genes were taken from pMS72 by digestion with *Sal*I and *Spe* I and ligated to pUC18Sfi (Herrero et al., ibid.) which had been digested with *Sal*I and *Xba*I. This resulted in plasmid pMS77. Then the *eutE -dhaT* fragment was taken from pMS77 by digestion with *Avr*II, and it was ligated to pUT-*tetA* that had been digested with *Avr*II, to form pUT-*eutE-dhaT-tetA*. After conjugation, the donor-recipient mixture was immediately grown in LB supplemented with 15 μg/mL tetracycline and 25 μg/mL chloramphenicol for about 40 generations by serial culturing at 37 °C. This enriched population was plated onto LB agar supplemented with the same antibiotics.